

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE RURAL AREA
OF
SALISBURY AND WILTON
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER
1946

SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS.

Medical Officer of Health—G. NAPIER,

“Mount Pleasant,” Stoford,
Nr. Salisbury.

Tel.—Stapleford 237.

B.Sc.(Hons.), M.B., CH.B.,
D.P.H.(R.C.P.&S.) C.T.M.&H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—J. THOMPSON,

Tel.—Salisbury 3371.

M.Inst.M.&Cy.E., A.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A., C.M.&F.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—J.

A. FURLEY,
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.M.&F.I.

Offices—35, CASTLE STREET, SALISBURY.
Phone—SALISBURY 3371.

Report

for the Year ended December, 1946,
on Public Health Matters in the
Combined Rural District of
Salisbury and Wilton.

General Statement.

Increased Work.

The past year has been marked by a further increase in the number and variety of returns to be sent to the various Ministries, and also of the number of Permits and Licences to be issued for nearly everything from Paraffin to Houses. Work has been further complicated from time to time by numerous and varied directions and requests for information on all subjects dealt with. Not only has the indoor work been greatly increased but the outdoor work correspondingly, due to additional visits necessary before the issue of Building Licences.

The rather antiquated Pumping Plant and unsatisfactory condition of the old Mains and system of the Farley Water Supply has been a continual source of worry and additional work. Whiteparish Pumping Plant has needed careful watching owing to increasing demands, and the Pitton Plant has broken down on occasions.

Squatters.

To add to our troubles "Squatters" took possession in August of Camps at Downton, Alderbury and Dinton. Emergency works were immediately undertaken to provide satisfactory sanitary accommodation, water supply and

disposal of refuse. Coal permits and necessary paraffin authorisations were also supplied. The supply of electricity was arranged by the Squatters themselves with the Electric Light Company.

Numerous visits have since been paid by the Public Health Staff and by the Council's Architect to prepare a scheme for reconditioning the huts and to provide for disposal of sullage, etc. At the time of writing a scheme is in the Ministry's hands at Bristol and has been partly approved.

General Health.

During 1946 it is satisfactory to report that there has been no epidemic of disease of any kind and that generally the health of the population remained good. Again this year we had no deaths directly due to Infectious Disease. The Birth Rate was again slightly above the usual level for the district and even above last year's high level.

The Death Rate is very slightly above last year's figure but about the usual level. The main causes of death remain very much as last year. So far we have escaped having any actual cases of Smallpox, and only one case of Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). Briefly then, from a Public Health point of view, we have had a satisfactory year.

Housing.

An energetic Housing Committee has been held up, by various difficulties, from carrying out their schedule of building, and at the end of the year 1946 not a single new Council House had been completed in our district. At the time of writing many of these difficulties have been surmounted and much more satisfactory progress is at last being made. Details are given later.

Housing Survey.

The required Housing Survey of the district is proceeding slowly but steadily.

Water Supply.

The Council have formulated a complete scheme of Water Supply to cover the whole of the District when taken in conjunction with the scheme of the West Hants Water Supply Company. This West Hants scheme is progressing, and the Council scheme has been approved by the County Council, and in general by the Ministry of Health. The Council are anxious to make a start. (See under Water Supply.)

Sewage Scheme.

A general scheme of Sewage Disposal was drawn out for the whole District. This will require consideration later, both on account of cost and prior necessity. More detailed schemes were prepared for Downton and Redlynch where there is more definite and urgent necessity. These were submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Staff.

I should like to take this opportunity of noting that our Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Thompson, will attain the age of 65 in July, 1948. As it is unlikely that another Annual Report will be published before then, this opportunity is taken to pay some tribute to a loyal colleague who has worked with me for 17 years.

Mr. Thompson has lived in this district for the last 27 years. Taking up an appointment as Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor with the Wilton Borough Council in 1920, when demobilised after the last war, he remained in their employ till 1930, when, for the purpose of Sanitary Inspection, Wilton Borough and the Rural Districts of Wilton and Tisbury were amalgamated, and in 1934 took over the new combined Rural District of Salisbury and Wilton, a post which he has held since that date,

Many changes for the better have taken place in Public Health matters in this District, including the 1930 Act dealing with unfit houses, and the 1935 Overcrowding Survey, and Mr. Thompson has always been keen to forward these improvements. He has directed his

attention to the improving of Water Supply, Milk Supply, Slaughtering, and Meat Supply, working steadily in the Public interest.

Prior to the outbreak of War he most ably assisted in the organisation of the A.R.P. Services until such time as the County Council took over administration. With the introduction of Fuel Rationing he undertook, in addition to his normal work, the administration of the Fuel and Lighting Orders, and has done so for the past eight years.

Housing Evacuees, War Damage, Disposal and Distribution of Stores, Firewatching—all were tackled in his usual energetic manner. When he retires Mr. Thompson will have the satisfaction of leaving behind an efficiently run District and a high standard for his successor.

Composition of the Area.

The area in acres is 110,163 (approx).

Rateable value of the district—£83,684 os. od.

Penny rate yields approximately £354 15s. 9d.

Population, 15,930.

Vital Statistics to December, 1946.

Births.

The birth-rate was 20·3, which compares with 19·1 last year, and with the figure of 21·3 given by the Registrar General for smaller towns, etc. The following are the figures for the year:—

	Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 20·3
Live Births—Legitimate	300	145	155	
Illegitimate	26	14	12	
Still Births—Legitimate	9	3	6	} Rate per 1,000 live & still births 35·5
Illegitimate	3	2	1	

Deaths.

	Total	M.	F.	} Death Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 13'2
Deaths ...	212	105	107	

Deaths from puerperal causes— Rate per 1,000
(live and still)

	Deaths	Births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0
Other Maternal Causes ...	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Number of deaths...(14 legitimate, 1 illegitimate)... 15

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 46'01

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 47

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 39

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 34

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years) ... 0

Particulars of Death.

The chief causes of death were :—				Last Year	This Year
Heart Disease only	...	...	...	29%	30%
Cancer	...	...	...	16%	16%
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1'5%	2%

Details of Public Health Services in the District.

The Medical Officer, in addition to holding the appointment of Salisbury and Wilton Rural District, is also Medical Officer to Mere and Tisbury Rural District, and Wilton Borough. His qualifications are Bachelor of Science (Honours Degree) St. Andrews; Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery; Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England;

Certificates of Tropical Medicine and of Tropical Hygiene, London.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector holds the following qualifications: Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers, Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector, Certificate of the Manchester College of Technology, Advanced Sanitary Science and the Certificate of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes.

The present additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. A. Furley, holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector; also the City and Guilds, London, Building Construction (Honours).

The former pupil assistant returned in July, 1946, after serving since 1940 with the R.A.F., on various fronts. He is now engaged on the Housing Survey, and is working hard to obtain qualifications to enable him to occupy the vacancy caused by the previous assistant who left in December, 1946, to join the Staff of the Marlborough Council. There is also employed a clerk and shorthand typist (male) who replaced in September, 1946, the previous female shorthand typist, who left after six years service on the occasion of her marriage.

Water Supplies.

Quidhampton, Stratford-sub-Castle, and parts of Laverstock and Netherhampton have a bulk supply from Salisbury City. This supply is chlorinated.

The parish of Dinton is from Mr. D. Combes' private supply; West Dean from the Norman Court Estate supply and Alderbury and parts of Odstock and Grimstead from the Earl of Radnor's supply. This supply is chlorinated.

The parish of Clarendon is from the Clarendon Estate supply, and the few outlying cottages on this Estate are now having piped supplies laid on.

Quarterly samples are taken for bacteriological analysis from the Council's five parish water supplies, one of which has recently been taken over. These are :—

Fovant—small gravitation supply.

Pitton, Farley, Whiteparish and Ebbesbourne Wake—pumping stations with reservoirs, the latter being the one recently acquired by the Council.

The reports on these samples have been consistently good as to quality, and thanks to the careful supervision given by the Public Health Staff to these Pumping Stations, there have been ample supplies from these for use of the inhabitants, also at Whiteparish for use of troops.

No waters in this district are liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

The Council's scheme for the whole of the district with the exception of three parishes in the West Hants area has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Health and Wilts County Council, and negotiations are now proceeding with a view to purchase land for sinking of trial bore holes.

	Estimated Population.	Number of Houses.	Water Supply.
Alderbury	750	313	Piped supply laid on to all houses Owner of supply, Longford Estate.
BarfordSt.Martin (See Fovant)	500	192	Wells
BerwickSt.James	135	46	Wells. Two private houses have their own small pump- ing plant and reservoir, with water laid on to houses.
Bishopstone and Stratford Tony	501	180	Wells

Bowerchalke	360	116	Wells and private piped supplies. 20 houses with water laid on, 50 from stand pipes and 46 from wells.
Britford	336	74	56 with water laid on and 18 supplied from wells. Consideration of a bulk supply of water from the Salisbury City for the outlying agricultural cottages, some 18-24 in number, is now before the Council Water Works Committee.
Broadchalke	595	181	Wells.
Burcombe	226	84	Wells. Piped water supply from public main to two agricultural cottages.
Clarendon Park	303	82	70 with water laid on, 12 without.
Compton Chamberlayne (See Fovant)	130	55	Private pipe supply laid on to 50 houses, 5 from wells.
Coombe Bissett	250	142	Wells, and one farm and cottages with private pipe supply, 6 farm cottages from stand pipe.
Dinton	432	194	Water laid on from private piped supply.
Downton	1716	482	Wells. This parish is included in West Hants scheme. At time of writing this report mains are being laid.

Downton, Redlynch, Landford, (or West Hants Water Board Area). Progress with the laying of mains, services, etc., is slow due to shortage of labour.

Ebbesbourne Wake	194	67	12 houses with water laid on, 55 with wells. Approval has been given by Ministry for water mains to be extended.
Fovant	409	150	24 with water laid on, 126 supplied from stand pipes. It is proposed to augment the present inadequate supply by taking a bulk supply from the R.A.F. Camp. This would be a great improvement from every point of view, i.e., purity, quality and pressure, and the taking over of the plant in its entirety would enable the parishes of Barford St. Martin, Burcombe and Compton Chamberlayne to be supplied.
Grimstead	334	85	15 with water laid on, 70 from wells.
Landford (See Downton)	480	164	Wells. Application has been made to include this in the West Hants scheme.
Laverstock & Ford	900	290	144 houses have water laid on; remainder, wells.
Netherhampton	180	68	Wells.
Odstock	424	152	100 with water laid on, 50 from stand pipes.
Pitton and Farley	420	140	Water laid on from public main.
Farley			This pumping plant is obsolete and worn out. The alternatives are (1) Connect up with Pitton: (2) Have new pumping plant and borehole at Farley. It would appear that (1) will be the most economical, there being one pumping plant less for supervision and repair.

Quidhampton	418	110	Water laid on from public main.
Redlynch (See Downton)	1946	658	No piped supply. This parish included in West Hants scheme. At time of writing this report mains are being laid.
South Newton	446	114	Wells. Consideration of bulk supply for South Newton and Wishford (owing to close proximity to Devizes Road reservoir, Salisbury City) should be a feasible scheme, and in view of the increased number of new houses (8 Council houses, 8 Messrs. Chalke & Son, 2 War Memorial) making the provision of adequate piped supply an acute one.
Stapleford	215	78	Wells.
Steeple Langford	474	141	Wells. Negotiations are proceeding with a view of obtaining a bulk supply for Steeple Langford & Wyllye from the R.A.F. borehole at Wyllye.
Stratford-sub-Castle	236	64	Water laid on from public main.
West Dean	186	48	Water laid on from private piped supply.
Whiteparish	790	265	Water laid on from public main. The augmentation of this supply by sinking an additional borehole (as recommended by the Council's Consulting Engineer) is required not only to enable the Agricultural requirements to be met, but to enable a supply to be given to several houses on the outskirts of this District

Winterslow	875	307	Water laid on by private company.
Wishford (See S.Newton)	239	74	Wells.
Wylve (See Steeple Langford)	320	153	Wells.

Analyst's Report on Water Supplies.

Number of supplies sampled	...	...	19
Number of Good samples ..	...	...	14
Number of Bad samples	...	...	5
Number of Bad samples which showed a Good analysis following remedial work	...	...	2
Number still receiving remedial work ..	...	...	3

Sewage Schemes.

The proposed scheme for Downton and Redlynch has been approved in principle by the Wilts County Council, and details of this scheme are now being prepared with a view of submission to the Ministry of Health for approval. It is to be hoped that shortage of labour and material will not hold up this scheme, as both these Parishes are Urban in character and this scheme is urgently required.

Of the necessity of piped water supplies and sewage schemes the Council are fully aware, and it is pleasing to report that they are anxious to see these schemes fructify.

House Refuse and Salvage Collection.

The past year has again not been an easy one, owing to the labour shortage. However, the two men now in the employment of the Contractor are settling down, and it is hoped that the improvement shown will be maintained. Owing to the difficulties of labour and materials it has not yet been possible to complete the conversion of the old Gas Works at Wilton into a Refuse Destructor. This, however, is progressing slowly but surely, and when completed it may be possible to consider the innovation

of fortnightly collections instead of the present monthly collection, and ultimately a weekly collection to all parishes.

The following materials have been salvaged during the period under review, and although in the majority of cases they show slight decreases as against last year's figures, it must be borne in mind that last year's figures were exceptionally high, and we again owe our thanks to the voluntary collectors under the direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

	tons.	cwts.		tons	cwts.
Paper ..	98	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Rags ...	10	2
Scrap Iron ...	24	9	Lead ...		5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bottles & Jars	4	14	Brass ..		8
Bones ...	2	17			

Meat and other Food Inspections.

This very essential work has again occupied a large amount of time, and further, if this Government Slaughter-house is going to remain as a permanency, it would be only right that the Authorities of Salisbury City, Wilton Borough, Amesbury R.D.C., and Mere & Tisbury R.D.C. should either provide an inspector on a rota or contribute towards the cost of this work. The more credit is therefore due to Mr. Thompson, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who since the outbreak of hostility has carried this additional burden on his own shoulders.

Animals Slaughtered.

	Number Killed.	Average per week.
Bovines ...	3,424	66
Calves ...	12,560	241'5
Pigs ...	18,837	362
Sheep ...	14,465	270'5
Total	<u>49,286</u>	<u>940</u>

Meat Condemned.

	Amount lbs.	Tuber- culosis	Fever & Septic	Bruising & Injury	Mori- bund	Jaundice Fevered & Abscesses	Imma- ture	Liver Flukes
Beef	136,092	70%	10%	7½%	2½%	5%		5%
Veal	3,169	47½%	10%	7½%	10%	10%	15%	
Pork	22,785	75%	6%	6½%	12½%			
Mutton	4,765		50%	10%	15%	5%		20%

TINNED FOOD—

The following amounts of tinned food were condemned at various Buffer Dumps :—

Sardines	...	6 tins.	Soup	...	3 tins
Beans	...	17 tins.	Peas	...	3 tins
Luncheon Meat		4 tins.			
Stewed Steak	...	5 tins.	Other Food—		
Evaporated Milk		56 tins.	Split Peas	...	17 lbs.
Pilchards	...	5 tins.	Dates	..	80 lbs.
Meat & Veg.	...	3 tins.	Prunes	...	100 lbs.
Chopped Ham...		1 tin.	Oats	...	77 packets
Jam	...	6 tins.	Cheese	...	14 lbs.
Ready Meals	...	2 tins.	Cake Mixture		1 packet
Steak & Kidney		1 tin.	Sultanas	...	25 lbs.
Salmon	...	4 tins.	Sugar	...	81 lbs

Cowsheds and Dairies.

There are 43 T.T. Herds, an increase of 4 over 1945.

The number of Accredited Herds is 50.

Number on registers :—

Cow-keepers	...	...	299
Cow-keepers and purveyors	...	...	69
Milk purveyors only	..	...	10

Total ... 378

Housing.

Private Enterprise.

- 18 New dwellings.
- 21 under construction.

Reconstructions.

- Cottage, Winterslow.
- Cottage, Wylke.
- Old Post Office, Landford.
- 3 Cottages, Berwick St. James.
- Chapel to dwelling, Whiteparish.
- R.W.A's, four in number.

Temporary Dwelling.

- One at Whiteparish.

Council Houses.

- Completed—nil.
- Under construction, 31st December, 1946—
 - 8 at South Newton.
 - 4 at Barford St. Martin (occupied April, 1947).
 - 4 at Steeple Langford (Swedish).
 - 4 at Pitton (Swedish).

Constructions started since 31st December, 1946.

- 4 at Nunton.
- 4 at Barford Lane, Downton

Tenders invited up to time of going to press.

- 4 Charlton.
- 10 Whiteparish.
- 6 Fovant.
- 4 Bishopstone.
- 4 Broadchalke.
- 4 Hanging Langford.

The following extract is taken from a report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Housing Committee dated 17th April, 1947 :—

“ Since my last report in March, 1946, another 209 houses have been categorised, making up to March, 31st, 1947, a total of 1,119, and in addition the following:

27 New Houses which have been erected by private enterprise.

4 Council Houses completed and occupied.

6 Houses completed (R.W.A.) (see last report).

10 Houses completely reconstructed during this period by private enterprise.

12 Houses reconstructed, for which Licences have been issued up to date (this includes conversions of stables, barns and other buildings into dwellings).

12 New Licences for Temporary Buildings. (Converted Army huts, etc.)

14 Houses for which schemes are in the course of preparation.

From the number of reconstructions completed and and in course of preparation, it will be noted that as far as restrictions on Licences to be issued will allow, we are endeavouring to house as many families as possible in modern cottages, which will be re-classified from categories 3 and 4 into category 1, and not simply an inspection and tabulation into houses on paper.”

Temporary Permits due to blitz and other conditions.

There are 43 temporary permits in use, plus 6 cottages licensed under the Housing Act, showing a decrease of 1 cottage under licence. The condition of the cottage had deteriorated to such an extent that it was no longer fit for habitation and has now been demolished. Temporary Permits have increased due to acute housing shortage.

Complaints.

During the past year the number of complaints was as numerous as ever. These were investigated and where necessary remedial works were carried out, verbal notices generally being sufficient. In one case only was a statutory notice threatened.

Infectious Diseases.

The Salisbury Isolation Hospital is the centre for this District. During this year there have been the usual sporadic cases, but no epidemic; this has been the case for the last fifteen years.

Disease		Number of cases	Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	30	25	0
Diphtheria ...	...	1	1	0
Erysipelas ...	...	2	2	0
Puerperal Fever	...	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	...	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	0	0	0
Measles ...	...	30	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	39	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		0	0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	1	1	0
Encephalitis	...	1	1	0
Vincent's Angina	...	0	0	0
Gastro Enteritis	...	0	0	0
Pneumococcal Meningitis		0	0	0

Tuberculosis.

Age Period	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0 ...				
1	1			
5 ...				2
10 ..				
15 ...		1		
20 ...				
25 ...	3			1
35 ...				1
45 ...				
55 ..	1	1		
65 & upwards				
Totals ...	5	2	0	4

During the year there were no deaths from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Infestation.

No steps were found necessary under this heading during the past year.

G. NAPIER, M.O.H. ✓

